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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Biondi et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: Not yet assigned

ART UNIT: Not yet assigned

FILING DATE: Herewith

EXAMINER: Not yet assigned

TITLE: VENTILATOR CONTROL SYSTEM AND METHOD

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

On page 1, after the title "Ventilator Control System and Method", please insert the following paragraph:

--Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This is a continuation application of U.S. application number 09/660,820, filed September 13, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. application number 09/045,461, filed March 20, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,158,432, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application number 08/569,919, filed December 8, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,931,160.--

On page 5, please delete the paragraph beginning on line 7 and ending on line 8, and substitute the following therefor:

--FIG. 11 is a flow chart of the data structure hierarchy employed by the ventilator control system.--

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